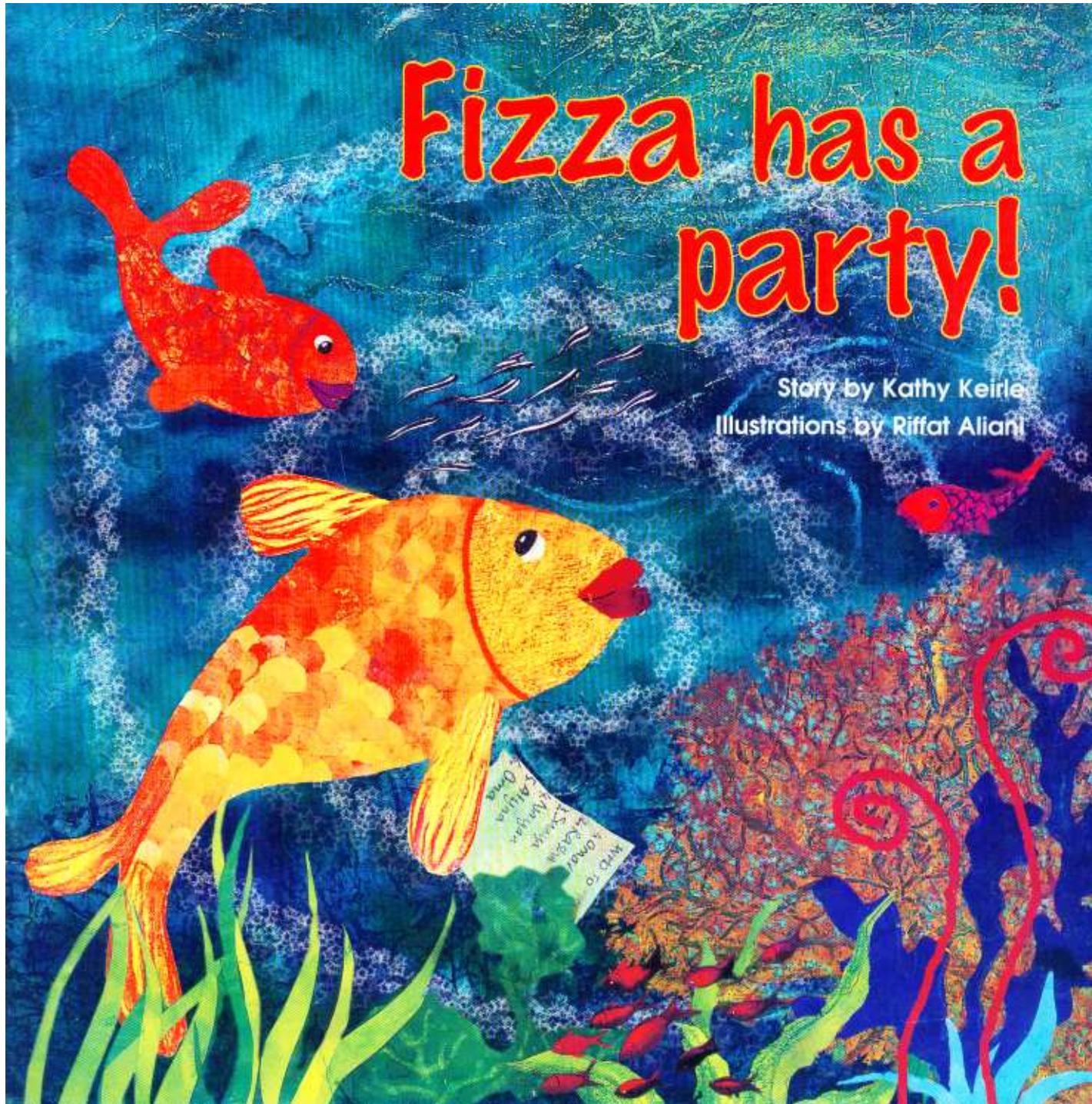


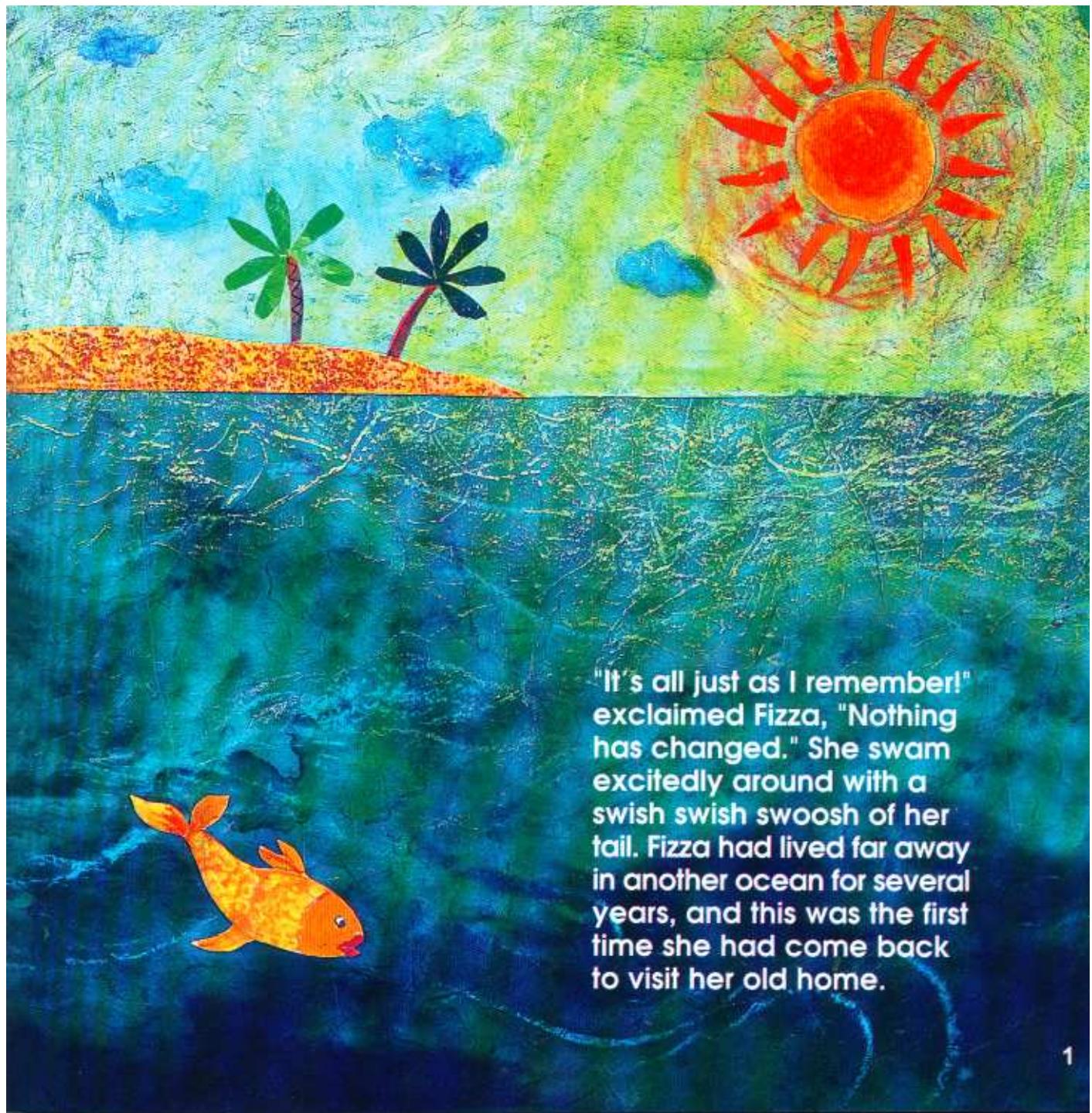
# Fizza has a party!

Story by Kathy Keirle

Illustrations by Riffat Aliani





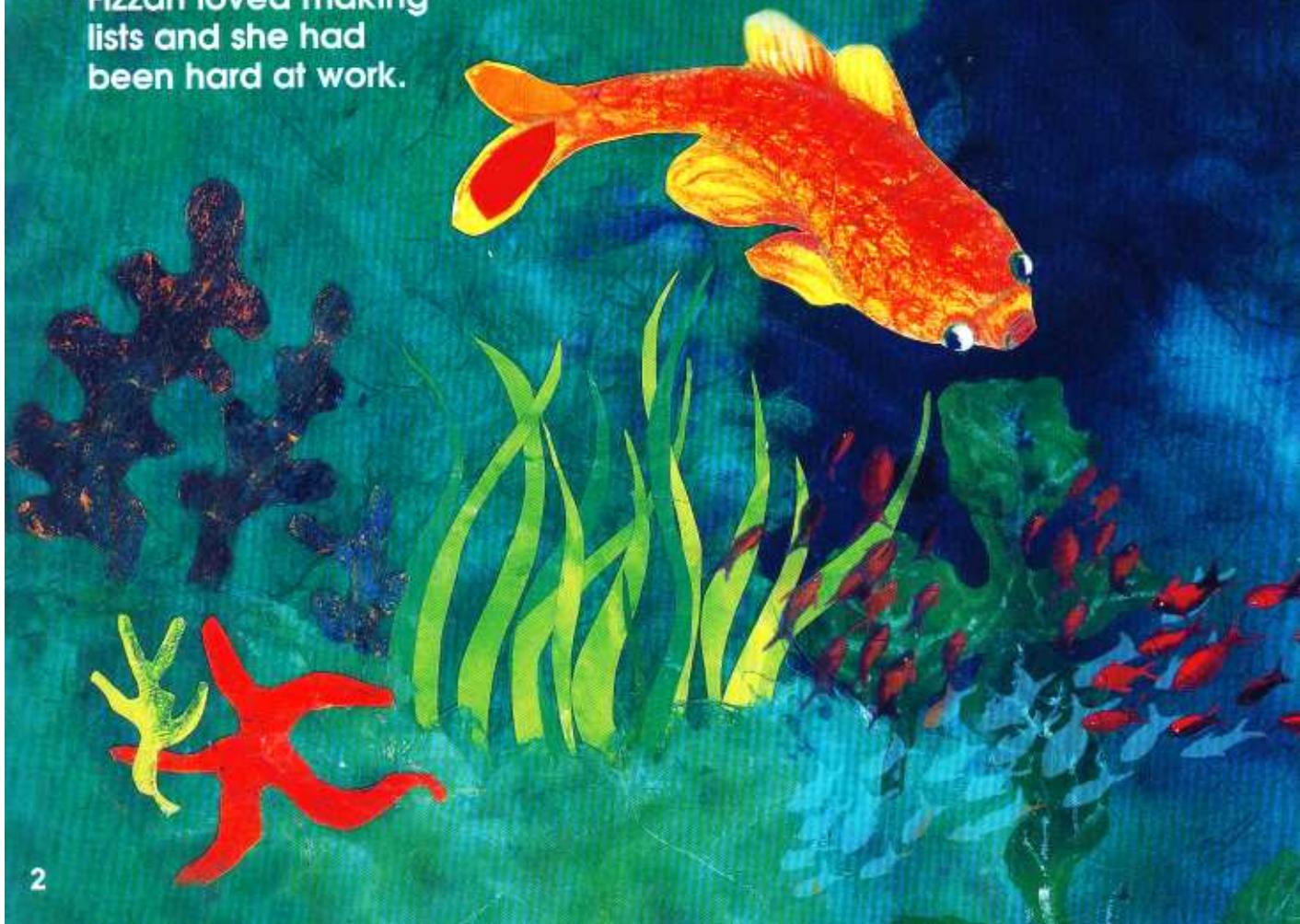


"It's all just as I remember!" exclaimed Fizza, "Nothing has changed." She swam excitedly around with a swish swish swoosh of her tail. Fizza had lived far away in another ocean for several years, and this was the first time she had come back to visit her old home.

"You must tell us who you want to invite," said Bagu and Balu. Fizza's cousins were planning a special welcome home party for her.

"That's easy," she replied. "I have everything prepared."

Fizzah loved making lists and she had been hard at work.



Her cousins looked at each other and groaned.  
"Not one of your lists!" they complained.

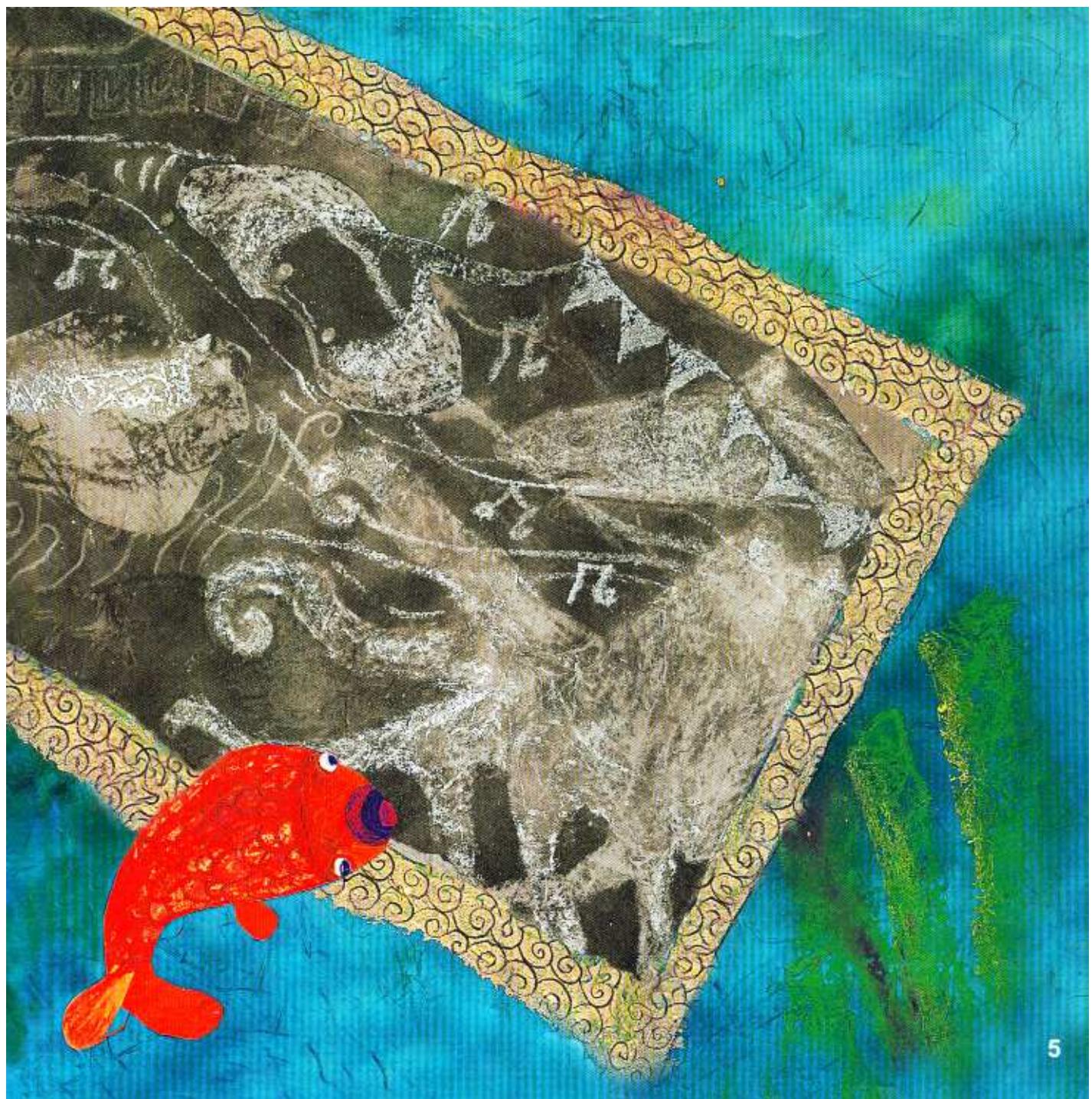
"Of course not," said Fizza with a big smile.  
"I've got lots of lists. I'm even better at them now."

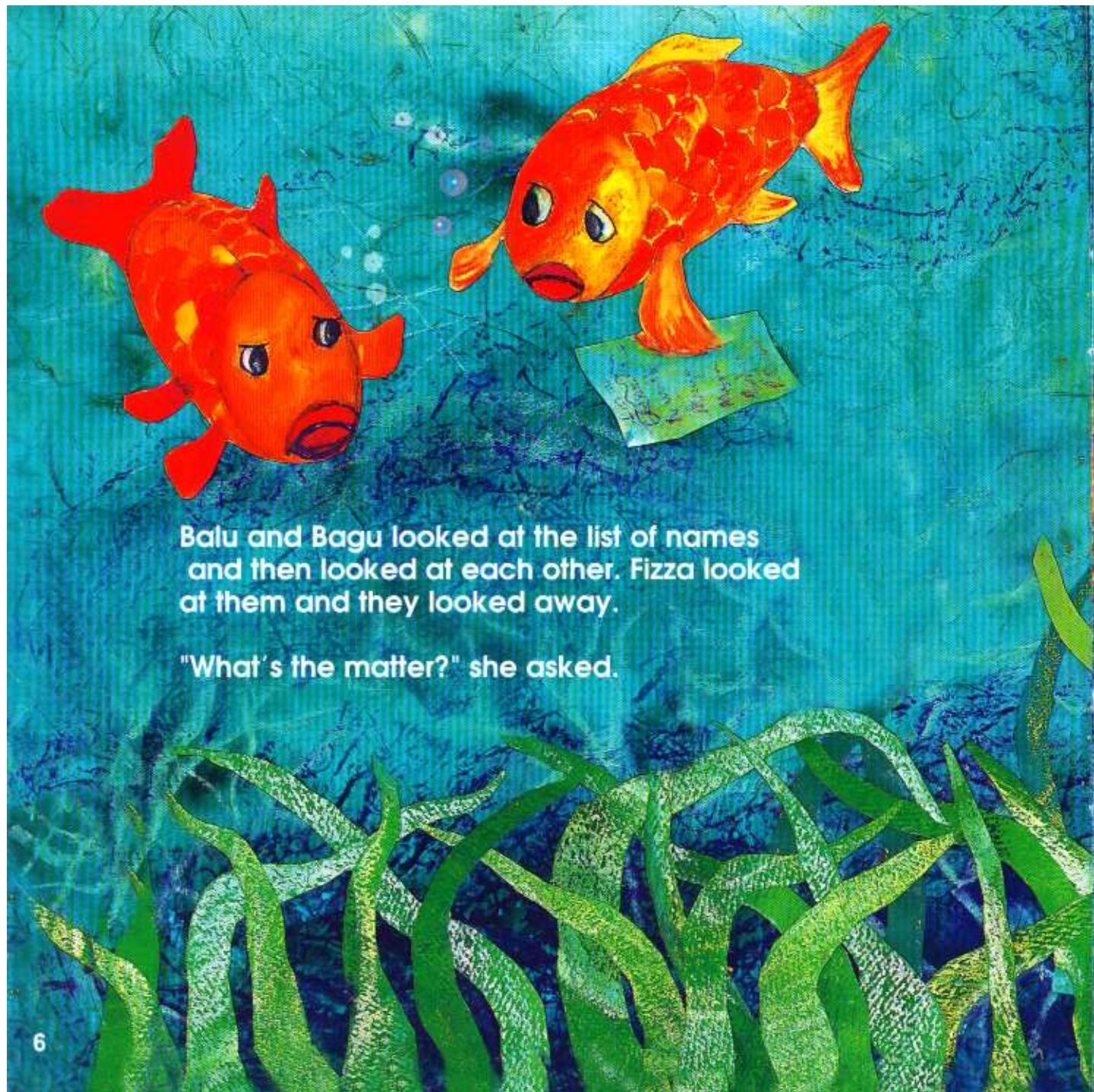




Fizza showed her cousins the names of the friends she wanted to invite. She also took out a photo of the farewell party she'd had before she moved away.

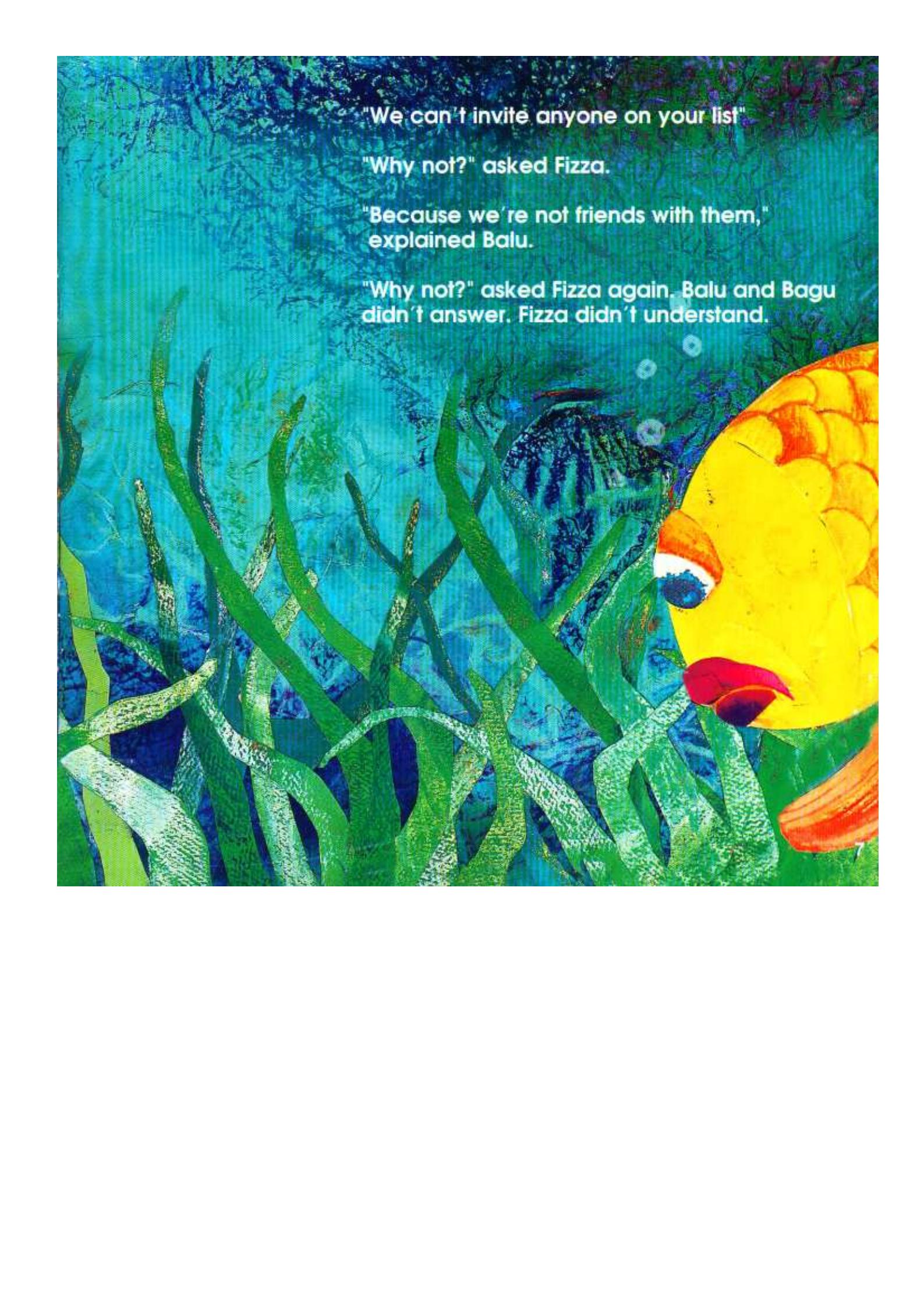
"Look! There's Omer the octopus, and Zainab and Mariam the ray twins. I've missed everyone so much! I can't wait to see all my friends again."





Balu and Bagu looked at the list of names  
and then looked at each other. Fizza looked  
at them and they looked away.

"What's the matter?" she asked.

A vibrant underwater scene. In the foreground, a large, yellow fish with a red fin and a white stripe on its side swims towards the right. It is surrounded by dense green seaweed. The background is a deep blue, suggesting a sandy ocean floor. The overall style is colorful and textured, with visible brushstrokes and a slightly grainy texture.

"We can't invite anyone on your list."

"Why not?" asked Fizza.

"Because we're not friends with them," explained Balu.

"Why not?" asked Fizza again. Balu and Bagu didn't answer. Fizza didn't understand.



**Fizza took her list and swam away. She flicked her fins and twitched her tail. She felt very sad and very lonely.**

**"Nothing is as I remember. Everything has changed."**





Balu and Bagu decided to make their own list to explain.

~~WHO WE AREN'T FRIENDS WITH~~

~~REASON~~

Omer the octopus

the worst wicket keeper ever!

Sunya the starfish

doesn't look like a fish

Hana the hermit crab

house is too small

Danyal the dragon fish

can't remember (but it was a  
good reason!)

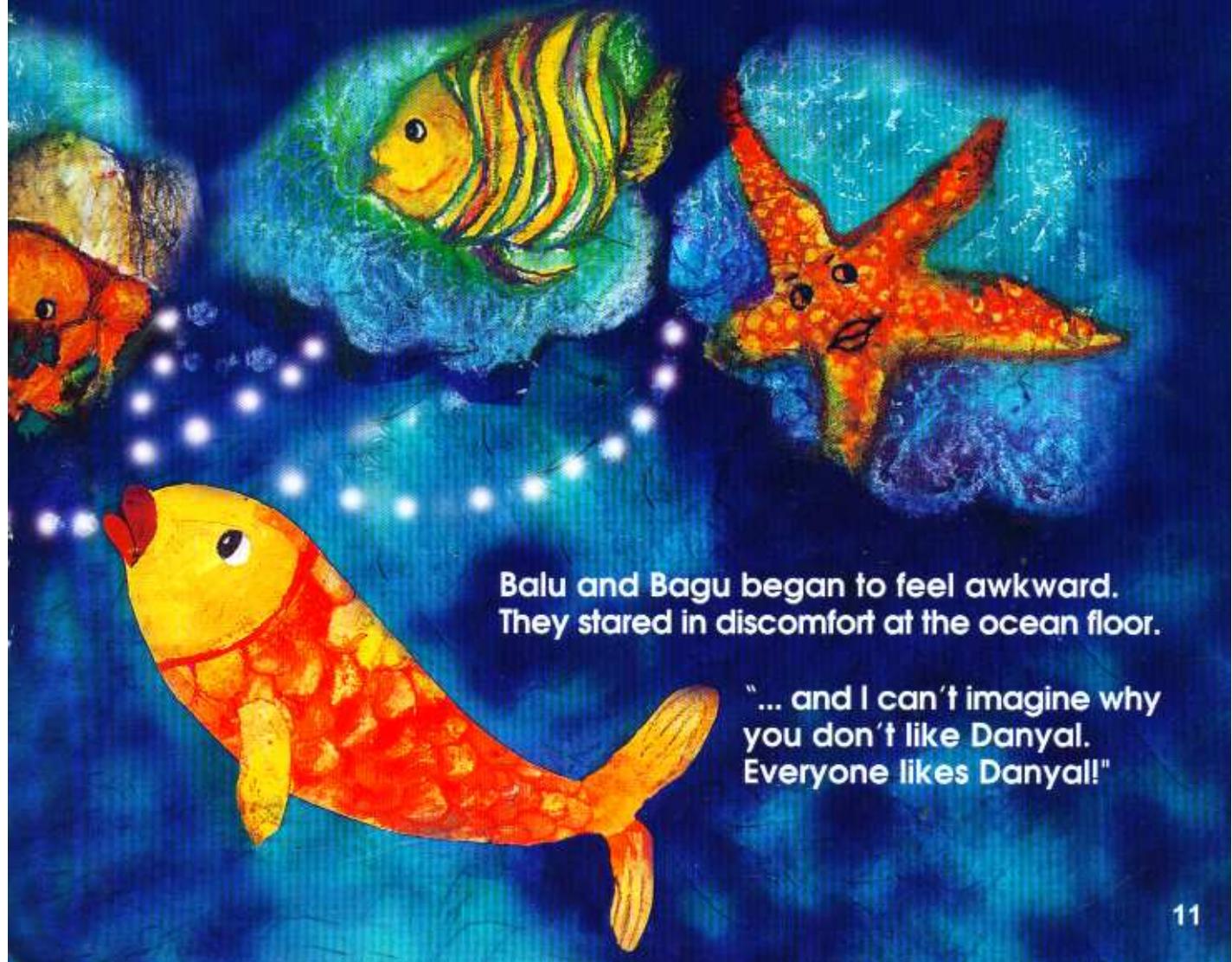
Alyna the angel fish

Talha the turtle

Fizza looked at their list and shook her head. She didn't agree with any of the reasons.

"Omer knew he wasn't any good at cricket, but he always helped you make up a team..."

...and Sania may not look like a fish, but then neither does Zora the sea horse, and she is still one of your best friends..."



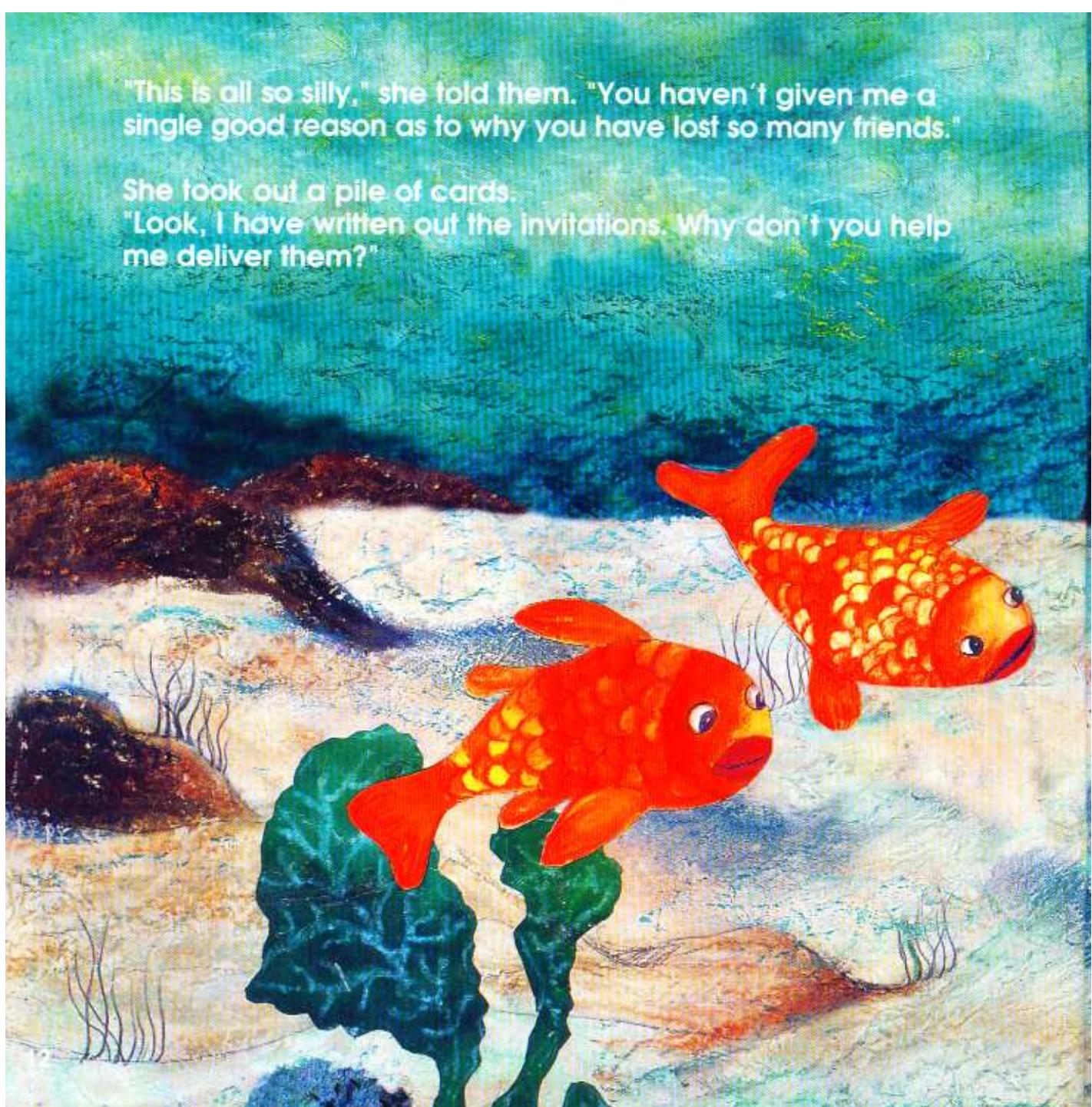
Balu and Bagu began to feel awkward. They stared in discomfort at the ocean floor.

"... and I can't imagine why you don't like Danyal. Everyone likes Danyal!"

"This is all so silly," she told them. "You haven't given me a single good reason as to why you have lost so many friends."

She took out a pile of cards.

"Look, I have written out the invitations. Why don't you help me deliver them?"



Bagu and Balu slowly raised their eyes. They looked at each other... they looked at Fizza... they smiled. They back-flipped and front-flipped. They looped-the-loop and spun on their tails. With a flick of their fins, off they went, handing out invitations for what was to be the best party of the year.

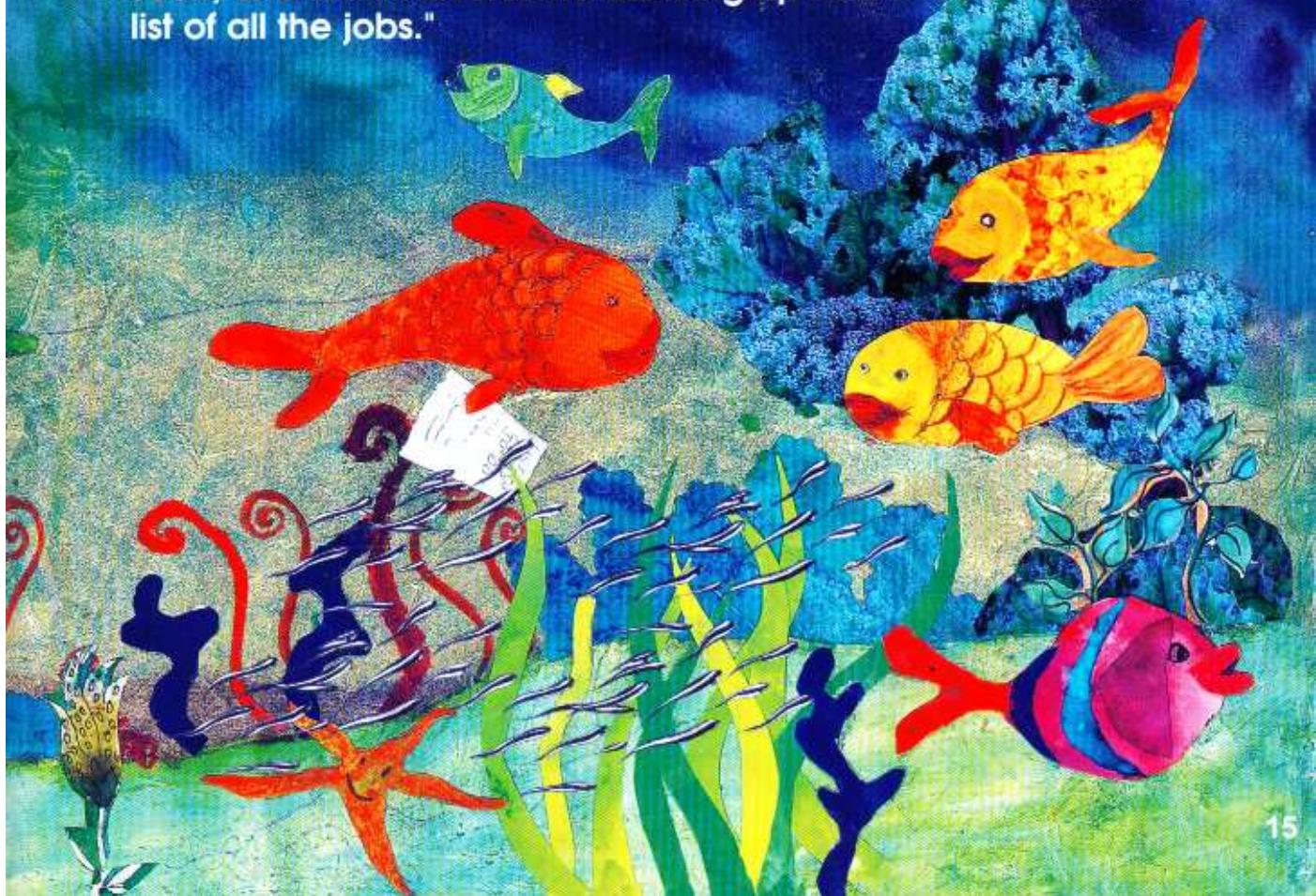


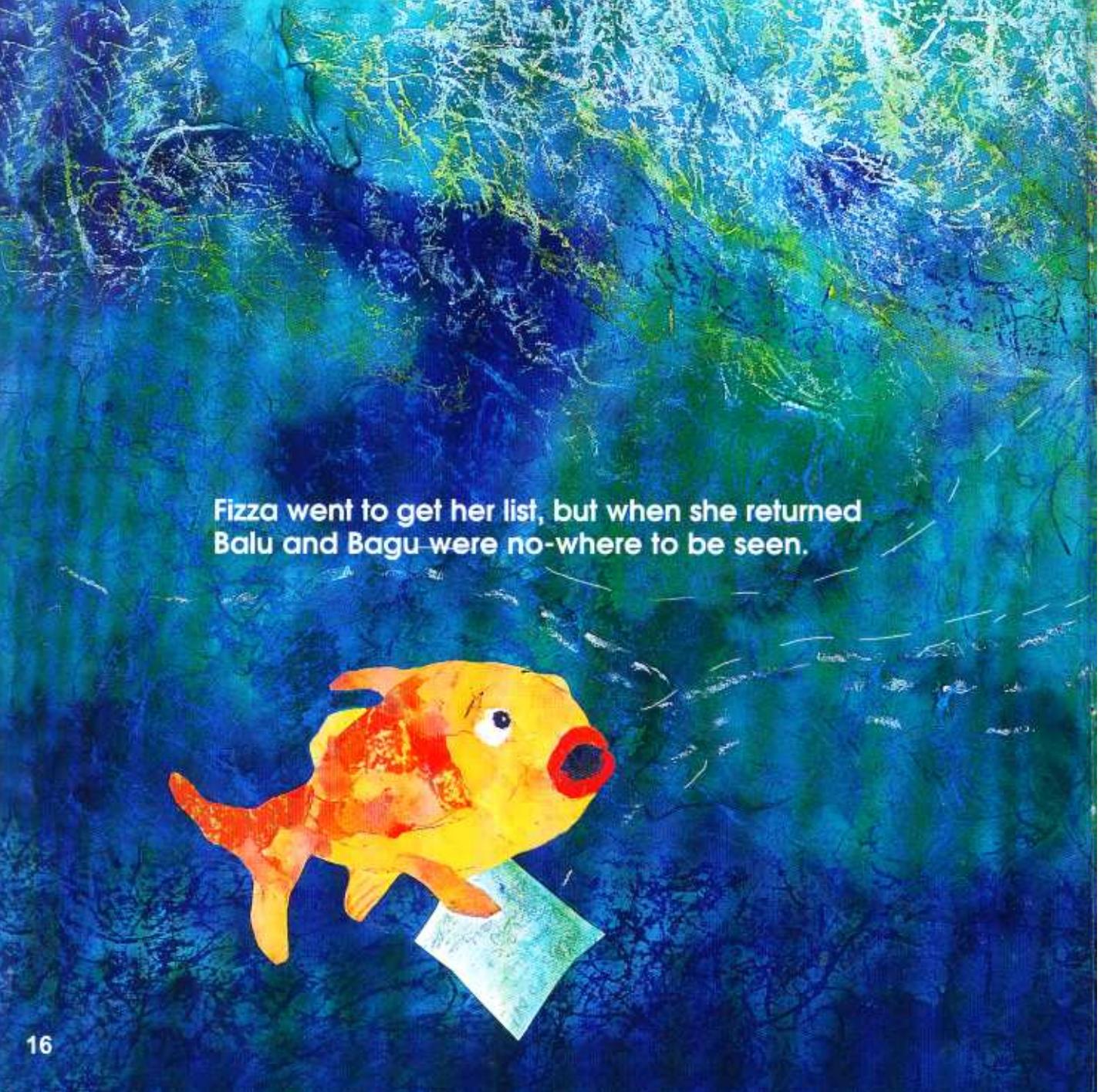


"What a fantastic party!" exclaimed Bagu. "The best ever!"

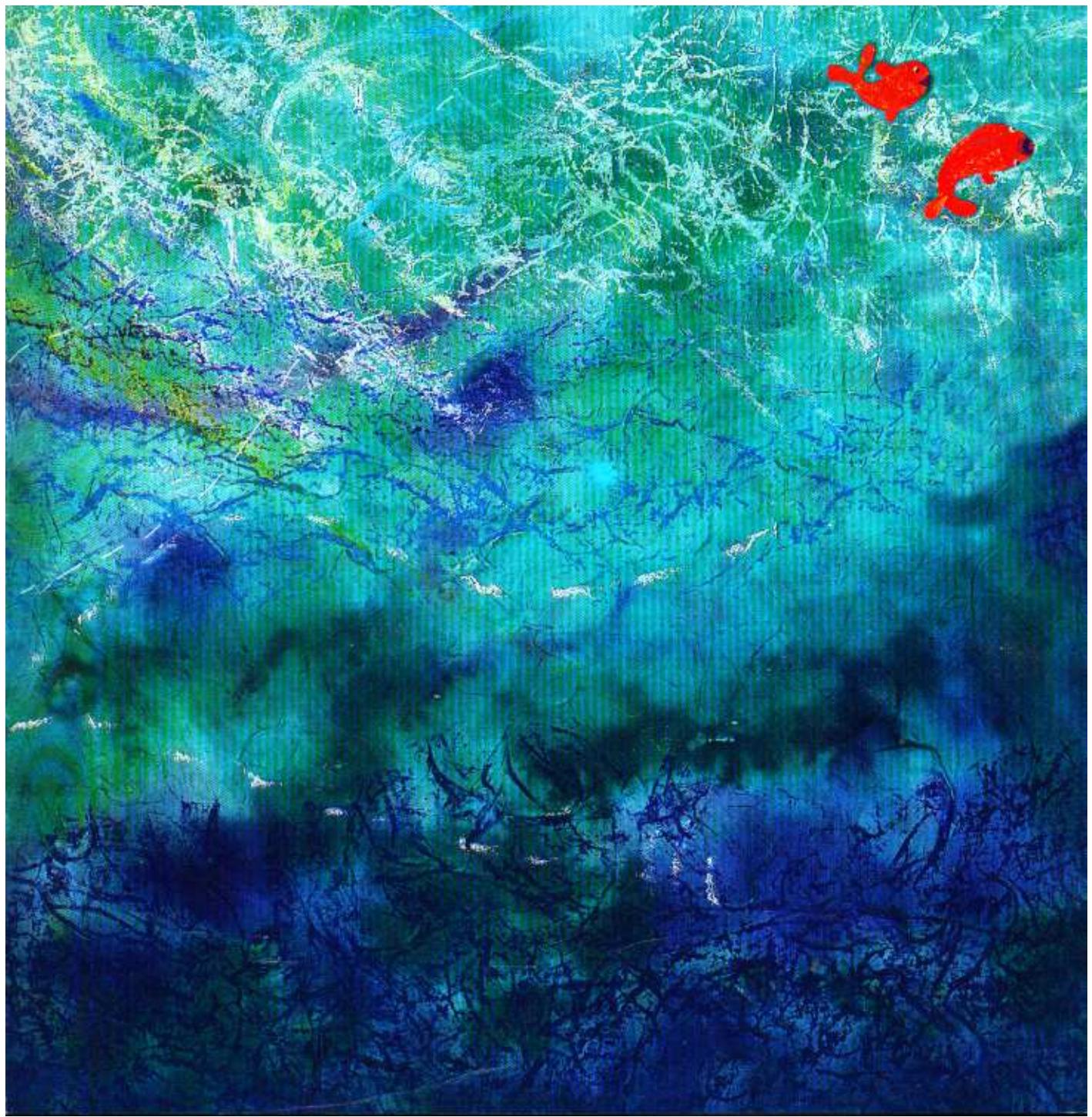
"I'm so glad we invited everyone," said Balu. "I'm really enjoying playing with Danyal. And can you see what Maryam and Zainab are up to...?"

"Never mind all that," interrupted Fizza. "The party will be over soon, and we'll have some clearing up to do. I've made a list of all the jobs."





**Fizza went to get her list, but when she returned  
Balu and Bagu were no-where to be seen.**



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